

Southeastern Association of Fire Chiefs oppose 1710

In January 2001, the Board of the Southeastern Association of Fire Chiefs went on record opposing the adoption of NFPA 1710 as a standard. The board cited the following as the basis for its strong opposition:

- 1 NFPA 1710-1720 sets an unrealistic benchmark for the delivery of fire service that has not been justified and lacks sufficient technical substantiation. The fire department provides services in a very wide variety of communities with many sets of conditions that require a performance approval with the community as the judge of the minimum acceptable level of performance.
- 2 The promotion of standards such as 1710/1720 is no different than state, local or federal mandates that require municipalities to

spend millions of dollars without provisions for the funds necessary to meet the requirements.

- 3 The standard as written is not realistic for a majority of the fire service agencies. The response-time standards for fire and EMS are not realistic for a large suburban county.
- 4 The IAFC accreditation process should be the main guideline of resource allocation and deployment for localities. Localities should decide their commitment and level of protection desired.

In response to the floor vote taken at the NFPA Annual Meeting in May, Southeastern President Chief Butch Zaragoza has tasked a committee to explore the possibilities of creating an alternative deployment standard. ✱